

Description

LIGHT EMITTING DIODE HAVING AN ADHESIVE LAYER AND A REFLECTIVE LAYER AND MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF

BACKGROUND OF INVENTION

[0001] 1. Field of the Invention

[0002] The present invention relates to a light emitting diode and the manufacturing method thereof. More particularly, the invention is directed to a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer and the manufacturing method thereof.

[0003] 2. Description of the Prior Art

[0004] Light emitting diodes can be used in a wide variety of devices, for example, optical displays, traffic lights, data storage devices, communication devices, illumination devices, and medical devices. To manufacture a light emitting diode of higher brightness is an important task of

engineers.

[0005] A prior art method for improving LED brightness involves bonding two semiconductor parts together by van der Waals forces. However, it has a disadvantage in that van der Waals forces are too weak to provide a sufficient mechanical bonding strength between the two parts and therefore they are apt to separate.

[0006] In U.S. Pat. No. 5,376,580, a method for bonding an LED stack and a transparent substrate to create an ohmic interface therebetween is disclosed. The transparent substrate can be made of GaP. The light generated from the LED stack can pass through the LED stack as well as the transparent substrate. However, this prior art method has to be carried out at about 1000°C by exerting a coaxial compressive force on the LED stack and the transparent substrate to form an ohmic interface therebetween. The primary disadvantage of this prior art method lies in that the property of the LED is destroyed by the high temperature during the manufacturing process and this results in an LED of low light emitting efficiency. In addition, the transparent GaP substrate has a color and a transparency of only about 60 70%. It therefore reduces brightness of the LED.

[0007] Another prior art method for improving LED brightness involves a bonding technique using a metal layer to bond an LED stack and a substrate. The metal layer forms a bonding layer and a mirror through its metallic property. Thereby, the light rays emitted from the LED stack can be reflected at the metal layer and re-enter the LED stack without passing through the metal layer and entering the substrate. The disadvantage that the some light rays are absorbed by a substrate can therefore be avoided. In such a manufacturing process, the bonding temperature of the metal layer is only about 300 – 450°C. The LED property will not be destroyed at these low temperatures. However, this bonding technique involves a few disadvantages. One of the disadvantages lies in that although a low bonding temperature will not cause any reaction between the metal layer and any of the two semiconductor layers to be bonded and therefore a highly reflective metal surface (reflectivity over 90%) and improved light emitting efficiency can be obtained, the bonding effect is not sufficient due to that there is no reaction between the metal layer and any of the semiconductor layers to be bonded, and an ohmic interface cannot be formed between the metal layer and any of the semiconductor layers to be

bonded. Nevertheless, in case that a higher bonding temperature is adopted, the bonding between the metal layer and any of the two semiconductor layers to be bonded is good. However, the reflectivity of the reflective metal layer will be greatly reduced and therefore the metal layer cannot provide a good mirror function. This is another disadvantage of the bonding technique.

[0008] To avoid the aforementioned disadvantages, the inventors of the present application got an inventive concept to be explained in the following. In case a transparent adhesive layer is used for adhering a metal layer, as mentioned above, to an LED stack, light rays generated by the LED stack may pass through the transparent adhesive layer, be reflected by the metal layer, and then pass through the LED stack. However, if the metal layer is simply adhered to the LED stack by use of an adhesive layer, the adhesion between them is achieved only by van der Waals forces and peeling is apt to occur at the adhesion interface. The inventive concept lies in that a reaction layer is formed between the transparent adhesive layer and any of the LED stack and the metal layer, wherein a reaction occurs between the reaction layer and the transparent adhesive layer so that hydrogen bonds or ionic bonds are formed to

enhance the bonding forces provided by the transparent adhesive layer. Thereby, the transparent adhesive layer can provide an enhanced mechanical strength and thus the above-mentioned disadvantage of peeling can be avoided. In addition, using the transparent adhesive layer can avoid the above-mentioned disadvantage caused by the bonding between the metal layer and the LED stack. Moreover, a transparent conductive layer can be formed between the transparent adhesive layer and the LED stack for improving the efficiency of current spreading and thereby can enhance the brightness of the LED.

SUMMARY OF INVENTION

[0009] An object of the invention is to provide a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer and the manufacturing method thereof. In the manufacturing method, a transparent adhesive layer is used to bond an LED stack and a substrate having a reflective layer so that light can pass through the transparent adhesive layer and reflected at the reflective layer. On each of the upper and lower surfaces of the transparent adhesive layer is formed a reaction layer. The reaction layer creates reaction when it and the transparent adhesive layer is pressurized and heated to enhance the bonding forces at the adhesive

surface for improving mechanical strength. The light directed to the reflective layer is reflected out to increase the brightness of the light emitting diode. Additionally, the reflective layer can also be formed between the LED stack and the reaction layer so that the adhesive layer does not have to be limited to a transparent adhesive layer and light directed to the reflective layer can be reflected out even a non-transparent adhesive layer is used. This method does not have any problems relating the decrease in reflectivity and decrease in bonding effect. Thereby, an effect of total reflection can be obtained and the object of increasing the brightness of an LED can be achieved.

[0010] A light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a second substrate, a reflective metal layer formed on the second substrate, a first reaction layer formed on the reflective metal layer, a transparent adhesive layer formed on the first reaction layer, a second reaction layer formed on the transparent adhesive layer, a transparent conductive layer formed on the second reaction layer, wherein the upper surface of the transparent conductive layer consists of a first surface

area and a second surface area. A first contact layer is formed on the first surface area. A first cladding layer is formed on the first contact layer. An active layer is formed on the first cladding layer. A second cladding layer is formed on the active layer. A second contact layer is formed on the second cladding layer. A first electrode is formed on the second contact layer. A second electrode is formed on the second surface area.

[0011] The manufacturing method of a light emitting diode in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention comprises the following steps: forming in sequence, on a first substrate, a second contact layer, a second cladding layer, an active layer, a first cladding layer, a first contact layer, a transparent conductive layer, a second reaction layer to constitute a first stack; forming a reflective metal layer on a second substrate and forming a first reaction layer on the reflective metal layer to constitute a second stack; providing a transparent adhesive layer and using the transparent adhesive layer to bind together the first stack and the second stack by adhering it to the surface of the second reaction layer and the surface of the first reaction layer to constitute a third stack; removing the first substrate to constitute a fourth stack; suitably etching the

fourth stack to the transparent conductive layer to form an exposed surface area of the transparent conductive layer; and forming a first electrode on the second contact layer and a second electrode on the exposed surface area of the transparent conductive layer.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

- [0012] FIG. 1 is a schematic diagram showing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention.
- [0013] FIG. 2 is a schematic diagram showing a first stack for use in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 1, in accordance with the invention.
- [0014] FIG. 3 is a schematic diagram showing a second stack for use in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 1, in accordance with the invention.
- [0015] FIG. 4 is a schematic diagram showing a third stack formed, after adhesive binding the first stack and the second stack and before removing the first substrate, in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 1, in accordance with the invention.

[0016] FIG. 5 is a schematic diagram showing a fourth stack formed, after removing the first substrate, in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 1, in accordance with the invention.

[0017] FIG. 6 is a schematic diagram showing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the invention.

[0018] FIG. 7 is a schematic diagram showing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer in accordance with yet another preferred embodiment of the invention.

[0019] FIG. 8 is a schematic diagram showing a fifth stack for use in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 7, in accordance with the invention.

[0020] FIG. 9 is a schematic diagram showing a sixth stack for use in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 7, in accordance with the invention.

[0021] FIG. 10 is a schematic diagram showing a seventh stack formed, after adhesive binding the first stack and the sec-

ond stack and before removing the first substrate, in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 7, in accordance with the invention.

[0022] FIG. 11 is a schematic diagram showing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer in accordance with still yet another preferred embodiment of the invention.

[0023] FIG. 12 is a schematic diagram showing a eighth stack for use in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 11, in accordance with the invention.

[0024] FIG. 13 is a schematic diagram showing a ninth stack for use in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 11, in accordance with the invention.

[0025] FIG. 14 is a schematic diagram showing a tenth stack formed, after adhesive binding the first stack and the second stack and before removing the first substrate, in a method for manufacturing a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer, as shown in FIG. 11, in accordance with the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0026] Referring to FIG. 1, a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer 1 in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a second substrate 10, a reflective metal layer 11 formed on the second substrate 10, a first reaction layer 22 formed on the reflective metal layer 11, a transparent adhesive layer 12 formed on the first reaction layer 22, a second reaction layer 23 formed on the transparent adhesive layer 12, a transparent conductive layer 21 formed on the second reaction layer 23, wherein the upper surface of the transparent conductive layer 21 consists of a first surface area and a second surface area. A first contact layer 13 is formed on the first surface area. A first cladding layer 14 is formed on the first contact layer 13. An active layer 15 is formed on the first cladding layer 14. A second cladding layer 16 is formed on the active layer 15. A second contact layer 17 is formed on the second cladding layer 16. A first electrode 19 is formed on the second contact layer 17. A second electrode 20 is formed on the second surface area.

[0027] Referring to FIGS. 1 to 5, the manufacturing method of the light emitting diode 1 comprises the following steps: forming in sequence, on a first substrate 18, a second

contact layer 17, a second cladding layer 16, an active layer 15, a first cladding layer 14, a first contact layer 13, a transparent conductive layer 21, a second reaction layer 23 to constitute a first stack 2; forming a reflective metal layer 11 on a second substrate 10 and forming a first reaction layer 22 on the reflective metal layer 11 to constitute a second stack 3, as shown in FIG. 3; providing a transparent adhesive layer 12 and using the transparent adhesive layer 12 to bind together the first stack 2 and the second stack 3 by adhering it to the surface of the second reaction layer 23 and the surface of the first reaction layer 22 to constitute a third stack 4, as shown in FIG. 4; removing the first substrate 18 to constitute a fourth stack 5, as shown in FIG. 5; suitably etching the fourth stack 5 to the transparent conductive layer 21 to form an exposed surface area of the transparent conductive layer 21; and forming a first electrode 19 on the second contact layer 17 and a second electrode 20 on the exposed surface area of the transparent conductive layer 21.

[0028] A light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer 6 in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the invention is shown in FIG. 6. The LED structure and manufacturing method of this LED 6 is simi-

lar to that in accordance with the aforementioned preferred embodiment except that the reflective metal layer 11 is replaced by a reflective oxide layer 611 by which the light directed to the reflective oxide layer 611 can be reflected and taken out.

[0029] Referring to FIG. 7, a light emitting diode having an adhesive layer and a reflective layer 7 in accordance with yet another preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a reflective metal substrate 710; a first reaction layer 722 formed on the reflective metal substrate 710; a transparent adhesive layer 712 formed on the first reaction layer 722; a second reaction layer 723 formed on the transparent adhesive layer 712; a transparent conductive layer 721 formed on the second reaction layer 723; wherein the transparent conductive layer 721 comprises a first surface area and a second surface area; a first contact layer 713 formed on the first surface area; a first cladding layer 714 formed on the first contact layer 713; an active layer 715 formed on the first cladding layer 714; a second cladding layer 716 formed on the active layer 715; a second contact layer 717 formed on the second cladding layer 716; a first electrode 719 formed on the second contact layer 717; and the second electrode 720 formed on the second

surface area.

[0030] Referring to FIGS. 7 to 10, the manufacturing method of the LED 7 comprises the following steps: forming in sequence, on a first substrate 718, a second contact layer 717, a second cladding layer 716, an active layer 715, a first cladding layer 714, a first contact layer 713, a transparent conductive layer 721, a second reaction layer 723 to constitute a fifth stack 8; forming a first reaction layer 722 on a reflective metal substrate 710 to constitute a sixth stack 9; bonding the surface of the second reaction layer of the first stack with the surface of the first reaction layer of the sixth stack by use of a transparent adhesive layer 712; removing the first substrate 718 to leave a seventh stack 100; suitably etching the seventh stack 100 to form an exposed surface area of the transparent conductive layer 721; and forming a first electrode 719 and a second electrode 720 respectively on the second contact layer 717 and the exposed surface area of the transparent conductive layer 721.

[0031] Referring to FIG. 11, a light emitting diode 110 in accordance with another preferred embodiment of the invention comprises a second substrate 1110; a first reaction layer 1122 formed on the second substrate 1110; an ad-

hesive layer 1112 formed on the first reaction layer 1122; a second reaction layer 1123 formed on the adhesive layer 1112; a reflective metal layer 1111 formed on the second reaction layer 1123; a transparent conductive layer 1121 formed on the reflective metal layer 1111, wherein the transparent conductive layer 1121 comprises a first surface area and a second surface area; a first contact layer 1113 formed on the first surface area; a first cladding layer 1114 formed on the first contact layer 1113; an active layer 1115 formed on the first cladding layer 1114; a second cladding layer 1116 formed on the active layer 1115; a second contact layer 1117 formed on the second cladding layer 1116; a first electrode 1119 formed on the second contact layer 1117; and a second electrode 1120 formed on the second surface area.

[0032] Referring to FIGS. 12 to 14, a method for manufacturing the light emitting diode 110 comprises the following steps: forming, in sequence, on a first substrate 1118, a second contact layer 1117, a second cladding layer 1116, an active layer 1115, a first cladding layer 1114, a first contact layer 1113, a transparent conductive layer 1121, a reflective metal layer 1111, a second reaction layer 1123 to constitute an eighth stack 120; forming a first reaction

layer 1122 on a second substrate 1110 to constitute a ninth stack 130; bonding together the surface of the second reaction layer 1123 of the eighth stack 120 and the surface of the first reaction layer 1122 of the ninth stack 130 by use of an adhesive layer 1112; removing the first substrate 1118 to constitute a tenth stack 140; suitably etching the tenth stack 140 to the transparent conductive layer 1121 to form an exposed surface area of the first contact layer 1113; and forming a first electrode 1119 and a second electrode 1120 respectively on the second contact layer 1117 and the exposed surface area of the first contact layer 1113.

[0033] The first substrate 18, 718, or 1118 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of GaP, GaAs, and Ge. The second substrate 10 or 1110 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of Si, GaAs, SiC, Al₂O₃, glass, GaP, GaAsP, and AlGaAs. The transparent adhesive layer 12 or 1112 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of polyimide (PI), benzocyclobutene (BCB), perfluorocyclobutane (PFCB), and the like. The first reaction layer 22, 722, or 1122 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of SiN_x, Ti, and Cr. The second reaction layer

23, 723, or 1123 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of SiNx, Ti, and Cr, and the like. The reflective metal substrate 710 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of Sn, Al, Au, Pt, Zn, Ag, Ti, Pb, Pd, Ge, Cu, AuBe, AuGe, Ni, PbSn, AuZn, and the like. The first contact layer 13, 713, or 1113 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of GaP, GaAs, GaAsP, InGaP, AlGaInP, and AlGaAs. The reflective oxide layer 611 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of SiNx, SiO₂, Al₂O₃, TiO₂, MgO, and the like. The reflective metal layer 11 or 1111 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of In, Sn, Al, Au, Pt, Zn, Ag, Ti, Pb, Pd, Ge, Cu, AuBe, AuGe, Ni, PbSn, AuZn, and the like. Each of the first cladding layer 14, 714, or 1114, the active layer 15, 715, or 1115, and the second cladding layer 16, 716, or 1116 comprises AlGaInP. The second contact layer 17, 717, 1117 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of GaP, GaAs, GaAsP, InGaP, AlGaInP, and AlGaAs. The transparent conductive layer 21, 721, or 1121 comprises at least a material selected from the group consisting of indium tin oxide, cadmium tin oxide, antimony tin oxide, zinc oxide, and zinc tin oxide.

[0034] Although the preferred embodiments of the invention has been illustrated and described in the above, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that various modifications may be made without departing from the scope and spirit of the invention defined by the appended claims.